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Remarks

This Preliminary Amendment is being submitted with a Request for Continued Examination. In reply to the final Office Action dated February 23, 2006, claim 1 and claim 12 have been amended herein. No new matter has been added. Assignee responds to the final Office Action as follows.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 1-22 under 35 USC § 103 as being unpatentable over Ishizuka (5,262,873).

Independent claims 1 and 12 have been amended herein. Support for the amendments may be found at least FIG. 2 of the present application. Nowhere does Ishizuka teach or disclose:

obtaining a second correction digital signal by scanning a second correction document during white correction, and extracting only a plurality of first bits of the second correction digital signal, *and setting the most significant bit of the second correction digital signal to a value of 1.*

as recited in independent claim 1 as amended herein and its respective dependent claims. Furthermore, nowhere does Ishizuka teach or disclose:

means for setting the most significant bit of the second correction digital signal to a value of 1

as recited in independent claim 12 as amended herein and its respective dependent claims. It is therefore believed that the claims as amended are unobvious over Ishizuka, and the rejection should be withdrawn.

It is noted that claimed subject matter may be patentably distinguished from the cited patent for additional reasons; however, the foregoing is believed to be sufficient. Likewise, it is noted that the Assignee's failure to comment directly upon any of the positions asserted by the Examiner in the office action does not indicate agreement or acquiescence with those asserted positions.

Conclusion

In light of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of the claims is hereby earnestly requested. Reconsideration of the present patent application and early allowance of all the claims is respectfully requested. Please charge any underpayments or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-3703.

Invitation for a Telephone Interview

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney, Kenneth J. Cool, at (720) 227-9445 if there remains any issue with allowance.

Respectfully submitted,
ATTORNEY FOR ASSIGNEE

Date: August 23, 2006

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